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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Please further amend paragraph 000~~8~~⁶ and 002~~9~~²⁷ (as numbered in the patent application publication 2004/0134323) as follows:

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[000~~8~~⁶] By advantageously exploiting a ram sliding on a turntable of the present invention, the supporting member for supporting the saw unit is able to be made sufficiently thick to optimize rigidity. Moreover a front end portion of the ram always lies under the saw blade allowing the ram to move synchronously with the saw unit so that the invention is sparing with operating and storage space. Preferably an elongate slot in a front portion of the ram receives the saw unit and moves synchronously with the saw unit in forward and rearward directions.

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[002~~9~~²⁷] The sliding miter saw includes a ram [4] slidably received in a guiding groove extending fully across the upper surface of the turntable [2] and arranged in a substantially diametrical position. As best shown in Figs. 6 and 8, the ram [4] provides a cutting support surface, and the upper surface of the turntable [2] is within substantially the same plane as the cutting support surface. A linear bearing is provided in the guiding groove (see FIGS. 6 and 11) which constitutes three elongate, low friction plates [40-43]. A first fixing member [17] and a second fixing member [18] in the form of elongate compressor plates are fixed on the turntable [2] to restrain the up-and-down movement of the ram [4] permitting a smooth sliding movement of the ram [4] in the guiding groove. A front end portion of the ram [4] extends beyond the turntable [2] when the ram [4] is at its extreme position (as shown in FIG. 2). An elongate slot [15] is provided on a front portion of the ram [4] under the saw blade [8] and receives the saw blade [8] when the saw unit is pivoted downwardly to the working position.